

THE APOLOGIE

OF

THOMAS BUSHELL,

Of Enston in the County of Oxford, Esquire.

By way of vindication from the
supposed Treason, or misprision of Treason
laid to his charge, or suggested against him by mali-
cious persons aiming at his life and fortune; toge-
ther with the reasons of his absence, and
right of his Demands.

Dedicated to those Honourable persons in the
Parliament, Counsell of State, and High Court
of Justice, who are lovers of their Coun-
trei, and covet to do, as they would
be done unto.



ANTWERP,

Printed in the Year of our Lord

*The Apologie of Thomas Bushell, of Easton in
the County of Oxford, Esquire.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Divine Providence having freed me from the Gunshot of a malicious pursute, it were more than madnesse in me to come againe before the mouth of a Cannon, where my enemies are known to give fire, and their eyes levelling at my reputation, life, and fortune, but lest their cruelty should so far exasperate the treason laid to my charge (as to condemne me before hand) I shall by your favours, signifie herein, a true and breif demonstrations of my transactions, both how farre I am guilty, and for what cause, and wherein I have been abused; as if I were at the high Trebunall where all must give an account, that so comparing the weight of my reasons, with their accusations, I may by your wisdomes be either acquitted or condemned.

In the first place, having long since had the happinesse of a very neere relation to that famous Philosopher the late Lord Chancellor *Bacon*, and being instructed by the influence of his knowledge in the theorick of the My-norall profession, I resolv'd to betake my self to that innocent calling, and to make the practick part of direction, my companion to retir'dnes, for the glorifying the God of Nature, by such publick designs, as well as by my private devotions, having formerly had the perplenities of a griev'd spirit, for the grand shate my youthes follies had purchased in this worlds rebellion, in prosecution whereof, having obtained the honour to be his Majesties sworn servant, and farmer of his highnesse Royall, and so by consequence bound to obey his commands, took an oportunity to acquaint him with the affection I had thereunto, together with the production of profit, and honour it might bring to this Nation, if diligently persued by men of experience and free-borne minds, who would only resigne the successe to the will of the all-disposing power; and upon the result of our discourse, I was at my own charge to cut through the Rocks of five severall-Mountains, at the lowest levell for a tryall, whence if Providence should sweeten my labours with quantity of Silver, his Majesty assured me under his signe Manuell, I should have the assistance of his Mint, to pay the minor with his own Coyne, which his Royall Clemency performed like the King of the Meads, and Persians, notwithstanding I had the opposition of his whole Councell at a publick audience.

that his necessities in War required my service, wherefore I should forbear the voyage, and share with him in the sufferings of these Commotions, which I willingly obeyed, with an alacrity not yet repented of, and finding too apparently that his cause was more betrayed by the treachery of some of his Cabinet Counsell, and their Agents, than by the hostile actions of his open enemies, made me then take the boldnesse to tell him the truth of my observations therein at large, and desired him to give me leave to stand upon my own strength, and to keep the Garrison of Lundy at my own charge, promising him either to die in the place, or that it should be the last Garrison surrendered, and not then neither without (his Majesties Consent.)

Severall summons and attempts were made by shipping to storme, or starve it, but the one failing, and they fearing time might prevent the other, the then Lord Generall *Fanfax* sent a Letter by his Drummer, promising therein upon his Honour, that if I would come over Sea, and treat with him, and the Lord Viscount *Say* and *Seale*, I should have a safe conduct; if the propositions they made could not give me content, which were these, to take off my Delinquency, restore me to my Estate, and protect my person from an ill natured Creditor, untill I was in Actual possession thereof, according to an Ordinance of Parliament made in that behalfe.

And having obtained the Kings consent thereunto, with a caution under his hand, that I should not be over credulous of their vaine promises, which had made him great (only in his sufferings) and would not discharge my debts, yet the beliefe I had of a Lord Generalls Honour ingaged, a Parliaments Ordinance, and many of the Lord Viscounts *Sayes* Letters to the same purpose, made me decline my Masters advice, and trust so much to the reality of their Acts of honour, as I surrendered the Island according to their own desires, with all things thereunto belonging.

But instead of having my Estate restored unto me, or my person protected, I was presently arested by an uncharitable Creditor (even in the time of my treaty) and no relief for either Person, or Estate, notwithstanding my dayly solicitations, and many intercessions made by the Lord *Say* therein to acquit his engagement; which ignoble proceedings in persons that pretend to Honor, did more perplex my grieved heart with sorrow for want of my creditors satisfaction, than to receive from you the sentence of a fatall death.

Now for the Treason laid to my charge, and proved by witnesses (as is reported) and wherein Colonell *Andrewes*, and Sir *Iohn Gell*, hath suffered, is of validity to condemne any man were he as innocent as a Saint; for no Negative being permitted, when the Affirmative is past, the party need not plead, but submit himself to his hard destiny; and therefore I shall by way of satisfaction justifie to you, and the whole world, that I deserve no more to suffer for what I am accused for, either in Consenting,

For were I personally present, I could prove the Isle of Ely plot but meerly the snare to entrap the Cavaleers, and I feare me Capitaine *Holmes* his necessities provoked him to Act in this Tragedy, by some hints he gave me and others of the imployment he had from some higher powers to that purpose, for I call God to witnesse, I never heard of the Isle of Ely plot from any other, but amongst the discoursing Cameroes of him and his associate Master *Bernard*, in the presence of Colonell *Andrewes* at the Mermaid neer Grayes Inne Gate, and Master *Bernard* very well knowes when he reviv'd it the second time unto me at my own Chamber, and desired my hand of consent thereunto, I so much renounced it, that I never saw him after.

Neither did I ever speake with Sir *Iohn Gell* or any other about any such thing as is pretended, or he to me, but indeed I did Court Sir *Iohn Gell*'s acquaintance with hope of profit, to be my partner, if by his means I could procure the digging in the Earl of *Rutlands* mannor of *Hadden*; but his brother giving me notice, that double the value of the herbage which I had offered his Lordship yearly, nor the price of the inheritance, could not invite him to have the Mines discovered in *Hadden* field, made me soon surcease my sute, untill a man of greater power in the States imployment, might perswade his honour to looke upon the publick trade of a Nation, as well as his own particular interest.

Whereupon I reviv'd my former solicitations by letter to the then Lord Generall *Fairfax*, for my right of articles, otherwise to take leave of my native country and travell; but receiving no other answer from his honour than that it was not in his power to performe it, and being suddenly after advertised of a plot laid by my adversaries, to apprehend my person, that I might not goe to a Commillion for examining their accompts of above twenty thousand pounds which they have already received out of my Estate; I then address'd my Letter to the Lord President *Bradshaw* offering to justify my actions against any pretended plots or conspiracies suggested against me, so that I might have a protection for my person, according to the Lord Generalls agreement, but being not admitted an answer thereof, and having been informed my enemies intended to presse the Generall Engagement upon me, at the hearing of my cause, wherein as yet my Conscience can no way be satisfied, I then obscured my self, and writ the true reasons of my suddaine departure, which are also annexed.

I shall therefore trouble your patience no more than in some few words to my charge of intelligence to the Prince, who being told that I was turned Rogue, for petitioning the House of Parliament with the title of Supreme Authority, did so much perplex my thoughts, knowing my heart not guilty of doing his highnesse the least injury, and the faithfull service I had done his royall father, to the value of thirty thousand pounds, acknowledged under his majesties own hand, for cloathing his Army, besides the losse of ten thousand pounds by sea and land since these commotions began.

ed such newes of the times, as I had received from Captaine *Holmes* and his associate Master *Benson*, both which I gratefully rewarded, but this before any act of prohibition to the contrary was published.

Takeing it as granted for a generall rule since divine providence would not interpret the transgressions of Angels, nor men, to be sin before a law prescribed, the regality of humane reason I conceive ought not to impute treason to any before an Act established to all, besides it is not unknown to the whole State, that my chiefest intellect hath been a diligent lover of those manescrip Histories as concerned the present passages of States and Princes, ever since I had the deservable knowledg of the Lord *Bacons* prediction to the revolution of Monarchy, by his sencibilitie of a former Parliaments severity on himself, so that if I have been more vigilant than others in gleaning the Vinyard of these moderne times, for my future companions in solitude, I hope your Charities will not measure my innocent In-deavours to deserve death, since all save one Letter of newes, hath been as yet kept from the publique sight of any, and the perusall of the rest at your service.

But for any other advises, either before or since, I shall desire no favour from you, if found guilty in the least, (nay more) if any the pretended treasons, or misprisions of treasons, shall be proved by the depositions of any one witnesse that beares the reputation of an honest man, I shall then submit my self, to the alternate fate of my mis-fortune in the punishment of the fact; but if no other person can prove the crime, laid to my charge, than such whose former perjuries for gaine (I fear hath been too late made manifest to the World) I hope you will not be guilty of my innocent blood, nor abridge me that right my Articles assures me to my Mynes and Customes, when your better thoughts may very well judge, that my designs in tewne were only to follow those publique sutes, and to stop the Complaints of my more than solicitous Creditors, and not to imbarke my self, after so much experience of trouble, in a second Delinquency with such Knights of the Posts, when common sence makes me uncapiable of pardon or pity.

On if unsearchable destiny, hath pre-ordain'd my dissolution by such wicked Witnesses, whilst I endeavoured the way to satisfie those friends which gave me credit, and to advance the trade of a Nation, by the assistance of forrain Merchants. I shall only say I have performed the good King my masters Commands, to share with him in his sufferings here; and I doubt not to be partaker with him in glory hereafter, having forgiven the faults and failings of my ensnarers, as I am confident his Majesty did freely pardon and pray for his.

I shall not therefore desire to lessen a letter in the pronouncing your judgment, nor seek to mediate the manner of my death, although it consignes me from the hurdle to the halter; For truly since I must die in your displeasures, any death that shall please you shall not displease me; it being indifferent whether the Fowls of the Air, or the Worms of the Earth, be partakers

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poor Orphans, and Widdows, both for the good of my soul, and quieting of my Conscience, which is, that you would be pleased to hear the Case now depending in your Court of Equity before I dye, that the manner how and when, each Creditor may be paid; may be set down, and settled by Decree, according to any Deed of Trust, and my bargain with Forein Marchants long since made for that purpose, otherwise the Authors of my death, may afterwards be the ruine of my friends, and cause the curse of ingratitude to attend me in my grave, which one hour of your patience may decide: For if my Articles had been performed, and those Law-sures, not forced upon me (I call God to witness) I had not troubled the conversation of any creature as a Companion, but the Libraries of the dead in some desolate desert: unless in way of recreation to direct Mynorall discoveries for the Common good; protesting upon the faith of a Christian I have no other heire to my affection than the reputation of a Gentleman, and the ambition of Knowledge in the search of natures secrets. And therefore let me intreat your charities to see my Estate restored according to my Articles, made with the then Lord Generall *Fairfax*, and Viscount Lord *Say and Seal*, without forcing my Conscience to take the Engagemet; will be so clear an evidence of your noble inclinations to Iustice, as the whole world cannot but take notice, it was my crime and not my Fortune revived your displeasures against me (which being granted) I doe hereby promise upon the Faith of a Christian to submit my self, under the execution of your sentence, if within eighteen months, when these commotions are over) I discover not so rich a Myne for Trade, and Treasure in your owne Iudgments, as shall ransom the error of my supposed treason, or procure an exchange, and this offer. *I make,*

Although I am without any other power of your punishment, then what hath been already inflicted upon me by your late dis-favours, being barr'd from the prosecution of the publick good I intended my Native Countrey by unlocking the new Treasures of the Earth to supply her threatening necessities, making my friends to shun me like a plague-sore, and my Enemies to rejoyce in my ruine, whilst they enrich themselves, with what the liberal hand of divine bounty had freely bestowed, as a reward of my Industry, and my friends and debts unsatisfied, all these afflictions being placed to the sad score of my condition in Solitude. I hope there is no one amongst you who desires to retain the profession of Christianity, or hath the least pulse of Compassion, beating in his veins, who will not deem this too great a burthen for humanity to bear, did not the pencill of holy Writ prescribe me the sweetnesse of hope, with the balm of patience, to overcome my oppressions, and also assures me the most perfectst man knowes not his own soul, nor the proudest the certainty of his continuance.

Master Bushnell's Letter to the Lord Generall Fairfax.
Most humble duty to your Excellency.

in the compasse of my Conditions) withdrawn, my six moneths protection given by your Excellency worn out in solicitation, and my person in continuall danger of Arrests, by such only who have designs by my restraint to forestall my future fortunes, which mischief cannot fall singly upon me, but will in no small measure concern the Commonwealth in the Minerall affairs. And therefore in want of my restoration to my right in Mines, and Customs of lead, discouraging my endeavors in new discoveries, and in want of convenient liberty to recover my rights, and pursue my services in Minerall works, I must make use of my last Article with your Excellency to travel, though not without much reluctancy at my disappointment, to be answerable to my Country, Creditors, and relations by my just endeavours. And under this protestation, nevertheless, that I shall not interest my selfe afresh in the continued quarrell, but seek to exercise my knowledge, and faculty in Mines in other parts, having not failed in mine own Country by any cause imputable to my want of skill, or industry, or adventure. My Lord, however unfortunaate I am, I shall not abate of my profession to be

March the 6th.

Your Excellencies most humble Servant

1649.

Thos. Rishell.

For the Right Honourable the Lord President Bradshaw.

My Lord,

BEing informed that those which procured the possession of my Estate in the time of my Delinquency, do not only seeke to wrest me out of it, by the power of their purl and freinds, but likewise endeavour to ruine my reputation with the Parliaments, Army, and Counsell of State, by their scandalous Agents; and to that purpose have procured severall warrants from your Lordship to secure my person, pretending some plot against the State, which I believe upon true examination, will prove to no other end but to make such Authority their devices, for the better accomplishing their wicked designs, against my life and fortune, as also to obstruct my present liberty, that I might not goe to my Mines in *Wales*, to the executing of a Commission for perfecting the accounts of twenty thousand pounds between us, hoping thereby to enjoy the continuall possession of my Estate in the Mines, from me and my Creditors, without contradiction, although formerly assigned to Feoffees in trust, for the payment of my just debts, due to Orphants, and Widdowes. Be pleased therefore, my Lord, in way of charity and justice, to move that I may either be restored to my estate according to the Articles made at the Rendition of *Lundy*; or my person freed from Arrests, untill I recover the same in a Court of Equity; and I shall upon sight thereof appeare before the Counsell of State, or high Court of Iustice, to Vindicate the aspersions laid upon my action, against all opposers, and submit my selfe to their honourable censures, if upon just proof they find me guilty of any crime worthy of their displeasures. So God